GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2777
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
EFFECT OF MINING ON ENVIRONMENT/ FOREST RESOURCES
Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of environment and forest resources damaged during 2005-06 and 2006-07 by public/private sector mining companies in various parts of Orissa;

(b) whether the Government had put any conditions before granting approval for mining in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which such conditions have checked the losses of environment and forest resources in the State?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has accorded environmental clearance to 36 (thirty six) mining projects in the State of Orissa, since January, 2005. The environmental clearance is granted subject to various conditions and environmental safeguards which inter-alia include proper management of Overburden (OB), reclamation of Overburden (OB) dumps, providing of garland drain around the Overburden dumps, transportation of mineral through covered trucks, development of green belt, sprinkling of water on haul roads, adoption of control blasting, regular monitoring of air and water (ground and surface) quality etc.

During the same period, forest area admeasuring 4,978.548 hectares has been diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for mining purposes in Orissa. To reduce the effect of mining on surrounding area, forestry clearance is granted subject to conditions such as Compensatory Afforestation, Implementation of Reclamation Plan, Payment of Net Present Value for the area diverted, conservation measures for flora and fauna, fencing and maintenance of safety zone etc.

The above conditions have been successful to a large extent in controlling pollution and other ill effects due to mining.